

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

June 9, 2016

Background notes for Monday, June 13th

Park and Recreation Commission Agenda

ALL-STAFF TRAINING

Assistant Director Robyn Fink, Recreation Supervisor Sarah Mallard, and I will host a training session with all of our summer staff on Monday, June 13th starting at 4 PM at Powers Hall in Town Hall. We will have information that relates to all employees, and will have guests provide additional input. The Needham Police Department will provide guidance on handling difficult situations. We typically invite a past employee to speak to the staff about the benefits of working with Park and Recreation as you move “into the real world.” This year’s special guest will be former summer program director and supervisor – and former Park and Recreation Commission member – Chris Dollase.

SPECIAL THANKS TO CHARLES RIVER YMCA

One of the many challenges of operating a pool that requires nature to fill the water – it isn’t ready in the pre-season for staff training. The Charles River YMCA has very generously provided time in their pool for staff training.

SUN SAFETY

Park and Recreation has been coordinating sun safety topics for many decades at the Pool and summer programs. Free sunscreen has been available for pool patrons for about 30 years. The Health Department recently purchased some new dispensers for us at Rosemary and we will also try locating them at some of the busier parks, including DeFazio, Cricket and Greene’s Field. We are hoping that vandalism will not be an issue, so that free sunscreen can be provided at these sites.

LITTER SUMMIT

I will be attending a Norfolk County Litter Summit on Saturday, June 11th in Walpole. The purpose is to get officials from area towns together to discuss the problems with trash in our communities. Keep Massachusetts Beautiful, a non-profit, will share ideas and best practices to help offer some possible solutions.

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

The Town has been working on projects related to employee engagement, including retention of quality staff. Administrative Specialist Kristen Wright and Assistant Director Robyn Fink are both serving on subcommittees.